



Fact Sheet:



California Outcome Measurement Service for Prevention (CalOMS Prevention)

Background

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP), together with other elements of the alcohol and other drug (AOD) service system, developed a means to systematically collect data about performance of prevention and treatment services.

Efforts to plan activities were often complicated by a lack of accurate, useful and appropriate performance and outcome data which policy makers needed to effectively evaluate the impact of past prevention efforts, make continuous quality improvements and allocate resources in an optimally effective way. A system of data indicators for prevention needs and the impact of prevention on the AOD-related problems was needed guide policy and resource allocations.

California's efforts to address these needs began in the early 1990's with ADP's Prevention Data Initiative. In the Spring of 1997, as a result of the requirement to assess the effectiveness of federal initiatives, policies and expenditures, the Federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) initiated the national Prevention Data Collection and Management Information System project, commonly referred to as the Minimum Data Set (MDS). Initially begun as a pilot program in eleven states, including California, the MDS was found to lack sufficient flexibility to satisfy all California's prevention data requirements.

Therefore, on January 1, 1998, ADP introduced the Prevention Activities Data System (PADS) to track prevention activities throughout the State. PADS was developed to present a more accurate and

complete picture of California's services and participants within a construct of the six CSAP prevention strategy areas and the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities grant requirements. However, PADS was not designed to collect data for evolving performance outcomes measures.

"Performance Partnership Grant" to "National Outcome Measures"

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a proposal to change the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant from an emphasis on process requirements, based on compliance and expenditure reports, to one reflecting a performance outcome model.¹ The new model, originally entitled Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), was intended to offer states flexibility in expenditure of funds while basing accountability on performance. October, 2006, was established by CSAP as the date for all states to submit all required performance data.

Over time, CSAP changed the design and title of the measures from PPGs to the National Outcome Measures (NOMs). The significance of the change is CSAP's increased emphasis on establishing uniform national prevention outcome measures rather than linking performance to the State's receipt of the SAPT grant.

¹ Federal Register, Vol. 67, No. 247, dated Tuesday, December 24, 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

CalOMS, an element of CalOMP

The California Outcomes Measurement System (CalOMS) focuses on designing the data collection methods, both in terms of the data indicators and the technology requirements needed to convey the information. The objectives of CalOMS are to systematically gather data to assist ADP and the counties to:

- 1) Assess the performance of AOD services;
- 2) Use that assessment in guiding improvements in AOD policies, systems and services; and,
- 3) Respond to federal reporting requirements.

ADP's California Outcome Monitoring Program (CalOMP) analyzes the data and uses it to guide policies for prevention, treatment and recovery services. CalOMP examines how these data apply to continuous improvement of quality of services at state, county and provider levels.

The Technology System Design

Various alternatives for collecting CalOMS prevention data were considered by ADP. Although the acronym **CalOMS** refers to the data collection method for both treatment and prevention, two distinctly separate data collection systems were actually needed.

A. CalOMS Treatment (California Outcome Measurement System for Treatment)

ADP determined that an in-house *system* would be the best alternative to capture treatment data from counties which is then reported to SAMHSA.

B. CalOMS Prevention (California Outcome Measurement Service for Prevention)

ADP determined the best method for capturing and reporting prevention data would be a web-based *service* contracted through a third-party vendor.

By contracting with a third-party vendor, CalOMS Prevention would:

- 1) Be more cost efficient;

- 2) Function in a manner similar to the previous Prevention Activities Data System (PADS) in that it would be a web-based service; and,

- 3) Not require counties and providers to develop their own system for reporting data – the cost for the service would be borne by ADP.

Where We Are Now

KIT Solutions, Inc. was awarded the contract to provide the prevention outcomes data collection service. At the time of contract award, KIT provided a similar service to nine other states. The services developed for these states were used as a foundation for CalOMS Prevention, which was then tailored to meet California's needs.

CalOMS Prevention was designed upon the five-step Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) structure. CalOMS Prevention allows counties to: a) upload their Strategic Plan; b) track assessment data; c) identify problem statements, goals and objectives; d) identify funding sources; e) report service activities; and, f) describe progress made toward meeting their goals and objectives. Also incorporated into CalOMS Prevention are the data used by the California Friday Night Live Partnership for their reporting needs. The service went "live" on July 5, 2006. There are an average of 310 providers (counties included) registered in CalOMS Prevention.

Where We Are Going

ADP staff will be working more closely with individual counties to ensure counties and their providers understand the SPF process and that the services provided in communities meet prevention needs determined through the SPF assessment step. Staff will also be working with KIT Solutions to more fully incorporate the federal NOMs in CalOMS Prevention

Benefits to ADP and Counties

Over the long-term, data from CalOMS and other sources will be analyzed and reports prepared for counties and communities to assist them in:

- Identifying AOD trends and risks
- Identifying local prevention needs
- Setting priorities
- Allocating resources
- Demonstrating service effectiveness
- Demonstrating cost effectiveness of services
- Identifying ways to continuously improve services
- Identifying effective practices
- Increasing provider, county and state collaboration